

2nd. The "hard" fossil, with a silicious or calcareous impregnation: the animal matter and earthy constituents entirely removed: occurring in sandstone matrix.

3rd. The "black" fossil, like the last, but impregnated with hydrate of iron: occurring in sandstone, or in a calcareo-argillaceous matrix.

No shells have yet been brought in.

VIII.—*Report Progress of the Boring Experiment in Fort William.*  
By Major T. M. TAYLOR, 5th Cav.

[Read at the Meeting Asiatic Society, 5th April.]

The immediate superintendence of the boring experiment having, in consequence of my removal from Fort William, passed into other hands, I think it necessary to acquaint the Society with the progress that has been made since I had the honor to submit to them a note on the subject in June last. (See Proceedings As. Soc. vol. V. p. 374.)

At that time a depth of 175 feet had been attained by the borer, which then worked in a coarse sharp sand mixed with pieces of quartz and felspar, and from the little progress made, it was supposed a bed of gravel or shingle had been reached. This supposition, however, proved erroneous; for after some delay the work advanced, until, the borer having gained  $178\frac{1}{4}$  feet, and the tubes being forced down to  $180\frac{1}{2}$  feet, they were observed soon after to have sunk by their own weight, and thenceforward up to the present time they have continued so to sink, maintaining a depth generally a few feet in advance of the auger.

It is remarkable that, although it was frequently tried, it was seldom found practicable to *force* the tubes down more than an inch or two at a time; yet, shortly after the removal of the pressure, amounting, possibly, to twenty tons, they would sometimes descend six inches or even a foot by their own gravity.

With a trifling variation in the color and fineness of the sand the stratum remained the same, until clay was found at  $198\frac{3}{4}$  feet, but this stratum was not more than five feet in thickness; five feet of sand then occurred, and after it another layer of clay. At 212 feet a bed of sand was entered, which has been penetrated to a depth of 131 feet, without reaching its termination.

Long ere this the work would have been carried to the utmost depth for which tubing of the diameter in use has been provided, had it not been for two accidents, each of which was of so serious a

character as threatened to put a final stop to the work. The first was occasioned by the separation of a part of the borer containing a valve, when at the bottom of the well; and the second by the auger becoming jammed with a brazen plumb which had been lost in the bore sometime before, in such a way that the application of no force that the rods could sustain sufficed to move the implement in *any* direction. The force that was applied may be conceived when it is stated that it was sufficient to raise the whole line of tubing bodily in the bore.

Keeping the tubes in position, the rods, by the application of a screw, were at length forcibly torn from the auger a little below the screw which joined them; after which, as in the former case, the valve worm auger was broken off by the jumper, and the instrument brought up by the catching in the socket.

The success in overcoming these disasters must be mainly attributed to the zeal and perseverance of the sappers employed on the work: in the latter, however, they were guided by the able instructions of Captain J. THOMSON, who suggested the measures to be adopted, and supplied from his own stores some of the machinery to carry them into effect\*.

When my superintendence ceased, (10th March,) the tubes had sunk to the depth of 343 feet, and the borer penetrated to 336 feet. The sand still continued to rise in the manner described in my former paper. It varies occasionally in color and substance, and latterly some pieces of felspar and lumps of indurated clay or sand have been picked out of the sand brought up. Specimens accompany this paper.

The supply of English tubing of the requisite character is very nearly exhausted, but an attempt will be made to cast some in Calcutta: if it fails, the experiment must necessarily be suspended until an indent that has been sent home be answered.

*Note by the Secretary.*

As a postscript to the above Report, I have now to announce a most curious and unexpected discovery, communicated to me this very morning by Colonel MACLEOD, the Engineer officer, who has succeeded to the charge of the experiment hitherto so successfully conducted by Major TAYLOR.

On a former occasion the Society was shewn metallic iron reduced from ore extracted from a depth of 150 feet, and sharp angular

\* To guard as far as possible against breaking the rods by the force applied to extract them, Capt. T. connected his screw with the rod-head, through the intervention of a rod of somewhat smaller section which would consequently give way before any injury could happen to the borer.—ED.

quartz and felspar from 175 feet;—but here is something which will excite much more surprise—a FOSSIL BONE brought up by the auger from a depth of 350 feet below the surface of Calcutta!

When it is considered how many million chances there were against an auger only a few inches in diameter, impinging upon the precise spot where a bone lay in the understratum,—the risk, too, of such a fragile object being ground to atoms by the tool, or pushed aside, and missed,—it may be regarded as the most extraordinary good fortune that the relic should not only have been met with but brought up entangled in the valve of the scoop without the slightest injury! The bone is the fractured lower half of a humerus of some small animal like a dog: it resembles the drawing of the corresponding bone of the hyena in CUVIER, but it is impossible precisely to identify it for want of skeletons for comparison.

The interior is filled with the micaceous sand in which it was imbedded, and scales of the same adhere to the exterior surface, as is shewn in the accompanying sketch, (see Plate XVIII.) The bone is not thoroughly fossilized, for when heated by the blow-pipe it becomes slightly charred and emits a perceptible odour:—but the animal matter left is exceedingly small, and the whole loss on heating a portion to a white heat was only 7 per cent., the greater part being moisture from the hydrate of iron with which it is impregnated. The greater part of the phosphate of lime remains with a proportion of carbonate: the specific gravity is 2.63, just the same as that of a fine specimen of polished ferruginous *odontolite* from the *Himalaya*: it requires the heat of an oxygen blow-pipe to fuse a fragment per se on platina foil.

Of the relative age of this deposit, compared with that of the *Sewalik* and *Nerbudda* fossils, it is impossible to form any exact conclusions, but it is worth while to recapitulate briefly the conditions under which each are found.

The continuous stratum of lower sand in which our bone was buried at a depth of a hundred and fifty feet, may be regarded as the gradual deposit at the mouth of a primeval river: the excess of mica contained in it would seem to indicate its derivation from a gneiss or schistose source, such, indeed, as the present *Himalayan* or *Vindyan* range might still furnish. It was evidently anterior to the general and extensive alluvial deposits of the yellow *kankary* clay which entirely cover, or rather form, the Gangetic plain, and which the auger in Fort William had passed through before it attained the depth of 100 feet. Now the fossil bones of the *Jamna* were also found under the *kankar* clays of the *Doáb*, 150 feet below the surface, so that in this respect



Fossil Bone from the Sand, 350 feet below the surface, Calcutta.  
brought up by the auger, April 1837.

